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Submission OB87

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Offord, Angela - Redistribution TAS - Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution

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Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution details

Category: Boundaries

Details: A redistribution of federal electoral boundaries occurs to ensure each electorate has roughly the same number of voters and should satisfy other criteria such as communities of interest, existing boundaries (LGA boundaries being one eg) and continuity. I support the electorate of Bass gaining the localities of the south-western suburbs of Launceston; Blackstone Heights and Prospect Vale, from the electorate of Lyons because these communities physically align closest to Launceston/Bass and associated urban, economic and service networks. You could apply the same reasoning to argue the case for Bass to gain Hadspen from Lyons.

I support the electorate of Franklin gaining the local government areas (LGAs) of Brighton, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Sorell and the Tasman Peninsula from Lyons as this does strengthen south-eastern coherence and contiguity in addition to reducing the geographical size of the Lyons electorate (the largest by far in Tasmania and a challenge for elected representatives to physically navigate).

I understand that with the above changes Lyons has to gain electoral numbers to maintain equity but I do not support the proposed transfer of Glenorchy City LGA into Lyons because the communities of interest (economic, social service and transport connections) of Glenorchy City LGA are more closely aligned to Hobart greater urban area (currently Clarke), of which it is a part, than the rest of Lyons which will be 100% regional/rural.

It does not make practical sense and only further adds to the challenge and complexity this poses for elected representatives of Lyons to be able to represent the interests of all of the communities of Lyons. Glenorchy City LGA is one of the fastest growing LGAs in Tasmania and has evolved from its early rural/regional roots to three CBD and industrial areas. The proposed change would mean that nearly a third of the electors in Lyons would be in the GC LGA making the Lyons electorate northern Hobart southern Tasmania centric profoundly changing the make up of Lyons as it currently stands. The proposed change would also make southern Lyons non contiguous given that Brighton will now be in Franklin (I understand Derwent Vally and Glenorchy are connected the longer way around the River Derwent).

I dont have a solution for solving the numerical parameters and I appreciate that the change would satisfy the criteria of an urban centre being a part of each electorate but I feel that this significant proposed change deserves more attention and consideration given the concerns flagged above.

Kind regards

Dr Angela Offord (veterinarian)
Independent candidate for Lyons in three elections.
